

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5515

UNCLAS BANGUI 0264

FOR AF/C - MR. PYLE

FOR CU/AF - MR. WACHOB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP-(BOKASSA, GEORGES), CT

SUBJECT: VISIT OF PRESIDENT BOKASSA'S ELDEST SON

1. GOCAR FONMIN OFFICIALLY INFORMED D EMBASSY FEBRUARY 26 THAT PRESIDENT COKASSA'S ELDEST SON, GEORGES, AND HIS BRIDE OF FOUR DAYS, EVELYN, HAVE CHOSEN TO SPEND INITIAL PART OF THEIR HONEYMOON IN THE UNITED STATES BEGINNING MARCH 2 FOR FIFTEEN DAYS.M ALTHOUGH TRIP BEING PAID FOR PERSONALLY, THE EMBASSY WAS APPROACHED WITH A VIEW TO ARRANGING ASSISTANCE AND COURTESIES FOR THE YOUNG COUPLE AND TO PROPOSE ITINERARY FOR VISIT.G
2. AS INTERIM RESPONSE EMBASSY HAS INFORMED FONMIN AND THROUGH INFORMAL CHANNEL CEORGES, THAT EVERYTHING POSSIBLE WOULD BE DONE TO MAKE US TRIP AS PLEASANT AND WORTHWHILE AS POSSIBLE AND THAT PROPOSED ITINERARY WOULD BE WORKED OUT FOR BOKASSAS SOONEST.
3. ON BASIS EMBOFF CONVERSATION WITH GEORGES SUBSEQUENT TO NOTE FOLLOWING TENTATIVE SCHEDULE ARRANGED: MARCH 2- ARRIVE NEW YORK; MARCH 6 - WASHINGTON; MARCH 9 - SAN FRANCISCO AND BAY AREAS; MARCH 12 - HOUSTON; MARCH 15 - ORLANDO AND DISNEYLAND, MARCH 16-17 DEPARTURE FOR RIO DE JAIRO.

4. EMBASSY NEEDS TO KNOW URGENTLY WHETHER DEPARTMENT WOULD

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BE ABLE PROVIDE ESCORT/INTERPRETER. FYI, IN ADDITION TO

BEING PRESIDENT'S SON, GEORGES IN OWN RIGHT MANAGES SEVERAL STATE ENTERPRISES AND HAS BEEN CLOSE PERSONAL CONTACT OF EMBASSY OFFICERS SINCE AT LEAST 1969 END FYI. IF CU SEES NO OBJECTIONS IN TERMS OF CULTURAL EXCHANGE GRANT GUIDELINES, EMBASSY WOULD SUGGEST ASSISTING WITH EXPENSES OF ESCORT/INTERPRETER FROM THE LIMITED REMAINING FUNDS IN ITS FY 75 CU BUDGET. PLEASE ADVISE ASAP ON BOTH POINTS.

5. FOR CU WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING PROGRAMS OF ACTIVITIES IN EACH OF CITIES TO BE VISITED. IN PARTICULAR GEORGES AND EVELYN ARE INTERESTED IN VISITING LYNDON B. JOHNSON SPACE CENTER AT HOUSTON, DISNEYLAND AND HARLEM. FYI SPACE CENTER TOUR COULD BE ESPECIALLY HELPFUL TO EMBASSY LOCALLY IN VIEW PRES. BOKASSA'S STRONG PERSONAL INTEREST IN SPACE AS WITNESSED BY HIS CHIEF OF STATE RECEPTION IN 1973 OF APOLLO-14 CREW. END FYI. OTHER SUGGESTIONS ON SITES OF INTEREST WOULD BE HELPFUL.

6. FOR AF/C-HPYLE: SUGGEST YOU INFORM FORMER APOLLO ASTRONAUT STUART ROOSA, BERT KLEINBERGER AND WILLIAM BRAILEY OF GEORGE'S PENDING VISIT. DALE

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